

## A ROMAN TOMB IN AMMAN

THE tomb was discovered in the course of building operations in the land of Shekib and Mustafa Khirfan at the foot of Jebel Amman el Jedid just above Sharia el Amir Talal. It is about 50 m. from the Nabataean tomb described in the *Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities of Palestine*, Vol. XII.

The chamber was roughly cut in the rather bad rock, approximately 3 m. square, having three loculi on each of the north and south sides, one loculus and three sarcophagi on the west side, and a loculus of either side of the steps on the east side. The entrance was a small square one with a good limestone door fitted with a bronze ring; eight steps were left in the rock to the centre of the chamber. The large limestone sarcophagi must have been taken in before the door was constructed, as they were too large to pass through it.

It contained the usual group of lamps, pots, etc., but is of interest because it is well dated by coins to the late second century A.D. These have been identified by Sir Alec Kirkbride, K.C.M.G., as being of local Philadelphia mint, except for two, which were of Bostra and Ephesus. Marcus Aurelius, Antoninus Pius and Hadrian can be identified. The objects are presented in groups as found and form a very useful addition to dated material of the Roman period. It is interesting to note the occurrence of jet and amber in the same forms as found in the Jebel Jofeh Roman tomb (*Q.D.A.P.*, XIV, Pl. XXXI).

The only unusual piece is the incense burner (?) no. 8. This was thrown on the wheel in one piece from base to neck: when it was cheese-hard the base was turned, the design cut and scratched on what was to be the cover, a ring of clay inserted in the neck which was pinched over it, to form a handle. Guide marks were then scratched above and below the carination, and the vessel was divided at this point with perhaps a knife, which must have had the thinness of a razor blade, for the two parts still fit together so exactly that it is difficult to see the joint. The angle of the cut, and the way in which the clay has been pushed in, shows that wire was not the medium for cutting.

### INVENTORY OF OBJECTS (PL. IX AND FIG. 1)

(Objects marked \* are not illustrated)

<i>Locus</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Jordan Register No.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Loculus A	*1	Basalt quern	1735	
	*2	Glass fragments		
Loculus B	3	Lamp	1736-7	Undecorated
	4	Lamp	—	Undecorated
Loculus C	5	Cooking pot	1738	Brown body and surface, ribbed, hard fire

<i>Locus</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Jordan Register No.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Locus C	6	Cooking pot	1739	Red body and surface, medium fire
	7	Jug	1740	Buff body and surface, hard fire
	8	Incense burner	1742	Buff body, pink surface, lid cut off from base, marks made for fitting
	9	Juglet	—	Buff body, pink surface
	10	Lamp	1741	Traces of decoration
	11	Gold bead	1743	Thin sheet gold
	*12	Jet ring	1745	Plain circle
	*13	Beads	1744	Carnelian, green glass, brown paste
	14	Amber pendant	1746	Human head, large nose
	15	Amber pendant	1747	Miniature vase (?)
	16	Amber pendant	1748	Sitting bird or animal
	*17	Amber pendant	1749	(cf. <i>Q.D.A.P.</i> , XIV, Pl. XXXI, No. 425)
	*18	Steatite spindle whorl	1750	
	*19	Kohl stick	1752	Bronze (cf. <i>Q.D.A.P.</i> , XIV, Pl. XXVIII, No. 269)
	*20	Ointment spoon ?	1753	Bronze (cf. <i>Q.D.A.P.</i> , XIV, Pl. XXVIII, No. 281)
	21	Glass vases	1754-9	
	*22	Bracelet fragments	—	Twisted bronze wire (cf. <i>Q.D.A.P.</i> , XIV, Pl. XXVIII, Nos. 255, etc.)
	*23	Anklet fragments	—	Iron
	*24	Coin, bronze, of Ephesus, early Roman Imperial	—	
Locus D	25	Glass vase	1760	
	*26	Glass vase	—	Two others same as 1754-5
Locus E	27	Lamp	—	Broken, Pl. XIII
	28	Glass vase	1761	With spout
Locus F	29	Cooking pot, small	1762	Buff body, red surface, hard fire
	*30	Jet bracelet	1763	(cf. <i>Q.D.A.P.</i> , XIV, Pl. XXXI, No. 409)
Locus G	*31	Glass fragments	—	
	*32	Glass vase	—	Same as 1755, fragment of second
	*33	Nail	1764	Iron
	*34	Bracelet fragments	—	Bronze
Sarcophagus H	35	Earrings	1765	Gold
	*36	Fragments of torque and bracelets	—	Bronze.
	*37	Coin, unidentified, possibly Bostra	—	
Sarcophagus I	38	Earrings	1766-7	Gold
	*39	Beads	1768	Glass, green, black, red and yellow
Tomb floor J	*40	Many iron nails	—	
	41	Cooking pot	—	Buff body, brown surface, ribbed, hard fire
	*42	Cooking pot	—	Fragments of another, grey body and surface
	*43	Fragments of leather, sandals ?	—	



<i>Locus</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Jordan Register No.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Tomb floor J	*44	Fragments of glass	1769	Plain
	*45	Bronze ring		
	*46	Spindle whorl, steatite, as 1750		
	*47	Bronze kohl stick, as 1752		
	*48	Lamp, same as 1736	1770-1	
	*49	Lamps		

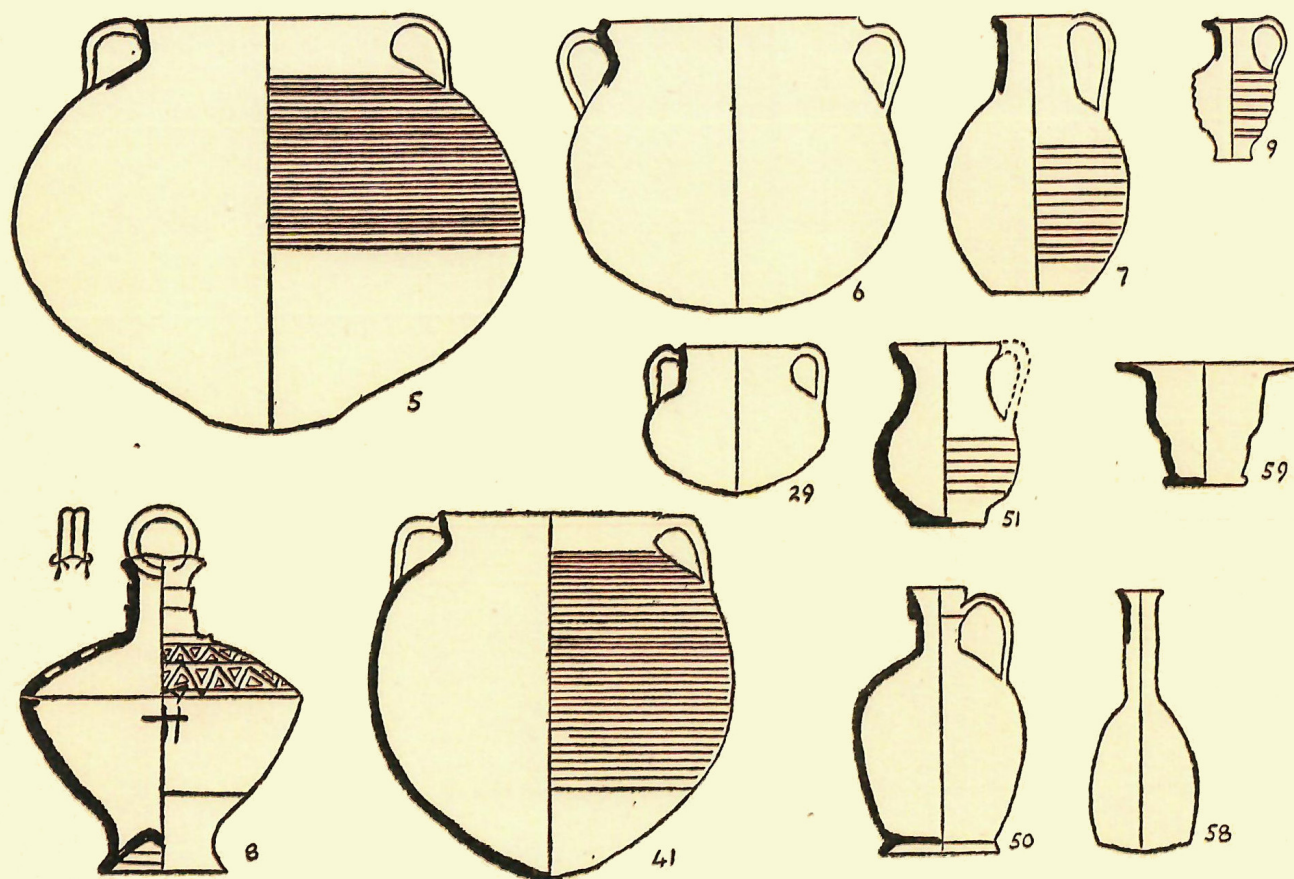


FIG. 1

Locus K	50	Flask	1772	Fine, hard red ware Brown body and surface, medium fire
	51	Juglet	—	
	52	Lamps, same as 1736 (?) and 1770; fragments of others	1773	Same as No. 25
	*53	Sherds of cooking pots Nos. 41 and 42		
Locus L	*54	Glass vase		
	*55	Two basalt hand rubbers	1775, 1776 (4), 1777 (2)	Same as No. 49
	*56	Sherds of cooking pots Nos. 41 and 42		
	*57	Lamps		

<i>Locus</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Jordan Register No.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Locus L	58	Oil flask	1779	Red body and surface, hard fire
	59	Chalice	1778	Red body and surface, medium fire
	60	Glass vase	1774	
	*61	Fragments of three others		
	*62	Coins: Philadelphia mint. Rulers: Marcus Aurelius 1 Marcus Aurelius, and Antoninus Pius together 2 Antoninus Pius and Hadrian together 1 Five unidentifiable.		

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